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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000461

SIPDIS

STATE FOR P, NEA CROCKER, NEA/NGA AND EUR/SE;
OSD FOR LUTI AND HRHODE;
NSC FOR KHALILZAD;
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH;
DAMASCUS FOR WALKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/16/2013

TAGS: PREL MARR TU IZ PHUM PREF UNSC

SUBJECT: IRAQ: TURKEY TO HOST IRAQ SUMMIT FOR SIX
NEIGHBORING STATES JANUARY 23 IN ISTANBUL, HOPING TO
COMPLEMENT UN PROCESS

REF: A. ANKARA 302
1B. ANKARA 201

(U) Classified by POL-MIL Counselor Stuart Brown. Reasons:
1.5 (B and D).

¶1. (C) Pol-Mil Counselor spoke with MFA DDG/Mideast Safak Gokturk 1/17 about Turkey's plans for a "peace" summit of heads of state or government of Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iran. Gokturk confirmed that FM Yakis had called in ambassadors/charges from the five other countries 1/16 and proposed the summit for 1/23 in Istanbul. They are awaiting responses.

¶2. (C) Regarding any declaration the summit would produce, Gokturk says Turkey will push for a clear message to the Iraqi leadership. Turkey also wants it to say that the six are "no enemy of the Iraqi nation, only its leadership." Turkey wants the declaration to refer to the need for further UNSC discussion. Ankara wants the summit to be "complementary to efforts of the Security Council." It should not be diluted by any attempts to "balance" the language with criticism of the US. This is not a "balancing act," Gokturk said, a point Gokturk said Yakis had also made to the Arab and Iranian Chiefs of Mission. That said, Gokturk admitted that other participants would obviously try to influence the declaration and that the final product would inevitably be the "weakest common denominator" of the six countries.

¶3. (C) Regarding the "game plan": Turkey realized the summit was short notice, but Ankara sees the need to act swiftly ("we can't wait until March"). Turkish embassies in the five capitals are double-tracking the invitations. Finally, Gokturk promised to remain in constant consultation with the Embassy on the summit. "We will keep you posted."

PEARSON